

give him a public reception, but this he had evaded, hoping instead, as he wrote, "to have opportunities of taking them individually by the hand at our court house and other public places, and of exchanging assurances of mutual esteem." His domestic circle was made up of his daughter, Mrs. Randolph, and her husband and children, and Jefferson again found in their society the felicities of home life of which he had long been deprived and in which his affectionate nature found its highest delight.

The course of his life now settled into much the same channels as those in which it had flowed twelve years before. From this time on, his correspondence acquires a value which it did not possess before, important as it has been seen to be in every period of his life. Nothing so clearly shows the wide range and versatility of his mind; and it is now the sole record of his pursuits. At first he was disinclined to devote himself to the labor of letter writing. He was, however, drawn irresistibly into it. Addresses and congratulations on his public service poured in from associations and individuals, and to answering these he brought the same interest as he had to those of eight years before. Pamphlets on almost every conceivable subject were continually reaching him, and to the author of each he felt that he owed an appropriate and courteous reply. His interest in literary and scientific matters seemed to take on new life; but the very leisure which enabled him to cultivate them brought its own cessation. His scientific tastes had made him known to every learned body in Europe and America, and he was a member of most of them. He was especially enthusiastic for the success of the American Philosophic Society, of which he was twice elected President during his retirement.

By far the best expression of the routine of his life at this time is given by Jefferson himself in a letter to General Kos-ciusko, written in February, 1810. It repeats, in peculiar fashion, much of the enthusiastic delight in his new surroundings which was to be seen in the letters written soon after his retirement from Washington's Cabinet. "I am retired to Mon-ticello, where, in the bosom of my family and surrounded by